

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M.D., Director

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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *Seventieth Birthday of State Health Board Observed*

The Northern California Public Health Association at its regular meeting held in San Francisco, May 20, devoted its entire session to a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the organization of the California State Board of Health. Dr. I. O. Church, Health Officer of Alameda County and President of the Northern California Public Health Association, presided.

The meeting was very interesting because of the presence of blood relatives of men who, in its early days, had guided the destinies of the State Health Organization. Among them were, Dr. Morton R. Gibbons of San Francisco, whose grandfather, Dr. Henry Gibbons, was the first President of the California State Board of Health and who served in that capacity from 1870 to 1884, when he died.

Mrs. Annie L. Blanchard of Berkeley, now in her 86th year, and daughter of Dr. Fred W. Hatch, Sr., who served as Secretary of the Board from 1876 to 1884, was also present, as well as Miss Margaret Hatch of Mill Valley, and Francis Hatch, M.D., of San Francisco, grandchildren of Dr. F. W. Hatch, Sr. Upon the death of Dr. Thomas M. Logan, first Secretary of the Board, who served from 1870 to 1876, Dr. Hatch succeeded him in office and served until his death in 1884.

Among the young physicians who were employed by the State Board of Health and the San Francisco Board of Health in 1900, when bubonic plague first

appeared in the United States in San Francisco, were Dr. Howard Morrow, now President of the California State Board of Public Health; Dr. W. R. P. Clark of San Francisco, now a member of the Board; Dr. Walter M. Dickie, now Director of the California State Department of Public Health; Dr. Carleton Mathewson, now City Health Officer of Fresno; and Dr. Chester G. Woolsey of San Francisco. Several of these early day workers in plague control were present at the dinner.

When Dr. George C. Pardee was elected Governor of California in 1901, he appointed Dr. N. K. Foster, of Oakland, Secretary of the California State Board of Health, and Dr. Harry E. Foster, his son, was present to acknowledge the ovation that was given to the constructive services rendered by his father, who, during his administration organized the State Bureaus of Vital Statistics, Hygienic Laboratory and Foods and Drugs, and who also instituted activities that led to the organization of concerted efforts in the control of tuberculosis. It was by means of appropriations made available through the activities of Dr. Foster that the State Tuberculosis Commission was established during the secretaryship of Dr. Foster's successor, Dr. William F. Snow. The recommendations of this commission in a report issued by Dr. Charles C. Browning and Dr. George H. Kress, led to the organization of the Bureau of Tuberculosis and the passage of the state tuberculosis subsidy law,



which nullified the persistent agitation for the establishment of state tuberculosis sanatoria.

Dr. Adelaide Brown of San Francisco, member of the State Board of Health from 1915 to 1930, was present to acknowledge the greetings of the assemblage for her activities in 1918 that led to the establishment of the State Bureau of Child Hygiene.

Dr. Wilfred H. Kellogg of Berkeley, who was a young bacteriologist in 1900 and a co-discoverer of the plague bacillus at that time, and who served as Secretary of the State Board of Health from 1917 to 1919, and who since 1920 has been Chief of the State Division of Laboratories, was given an ovation for his contributions to public health.

Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the California State Department of Public Health since 1920, presented a paper upon the development of the state public health organization, and Dr. Junius B. Harris of Sacramento, who served as a member of the California State Board of Health from 1930 to 1934, addressed the meeting upon the early history of public health in Sacramento, presenting stereopticon slides showing portraits of the first members of the California State Board of Health, pioneer hospitals, interiors of the offices of practitioners of medicine in the early days, and many other subjects of historical interest.

The timeliness of this meeting and the presence of blood relatives of those doctors of medicine who organized public health services in California, added greatly to the interest. Since California was the second state to establish a State Board of Health, Massachusetts having organized its Board about six months previously, the occasion was significant and emphasized the importance of medicine in its continued support of public health in California for more than 70 years.

#### **IMITATION OLIVE OIL CAUSES ARREST**

Another olive oil packer who has been accused of flooding the market in central California with adulterated and misbranded olive oil was arrested during April. A plea of "not guilty" was entered and the date of trial set for May 25. A jury trial has been requested. Another defendant in an olive oil case in Oakland was found guilty and a fine of \$250 imposed. A large number of one-gallon cans of so-called olive oil seized and quarantined during the investigation were ordered destroyed, by the court, as part of the penalty. Because the oil was in reality cottonseed oil, the bureau requested permission to donate the product to a charitable institution. Permission was granted by the court.

#### **PHENOBARBITAL INVESTIGATION**

As a result of reports of numerous suicidal deaths purported to have been due to the use of phenobarbital or phenobarbital derivatives, a state-wide investigation was conducted. It was found that one tablet in particular, marketed under a proprietary name was being sold in lieu of phenobarbital. This preparation was being sold under the guise of a patent medicine which, according to the Veronal Law, was not illegal in that it was a registered, trademarked, or copyrighted preparation which contained less than 40 grains of phenobarbital to the avoirdupois ounce. The gross weight of the tablet in question was approximately  $12\frac{1}{2}$  grains, of which one grain was phenobarbital, or double the U. S. P. dose of this dangerous drug. The balance of the ingredients were sodium bromide and other practically inert products used to obtain the necessary bulk in order to evade the law. In the vicinity of colleges, undercover operatives requested phenobarbital. It was suggested by pharmacists that a substitute which would give the same effect and which actually contained phenobarbital be purchased instead, as it was unlawful to sell phenobarbital without a doctor's prescription. Numerous purchases were thus made, which indicated that college students and minors were being supplied with this so-called sleep producer, or sedative. Upon receipt of this information the department ordered the removal of this product from the market, and quarantined same at the source of supply, to prevent any future sales. The packages bore no warnings regarding the danger involved in taking phenobarbital, as is required by law. The product has been manufactured by a Los Angeles firm, and the case was referred to the district attorney for further legal action. The matter was in turn referred to the Attorney General.

#### **SPRAY PAINTING**

At the request of a labor union and in cooperation with a large automobile body manufacturing plant, studies are being made of the health hazards to which spray painters may be exposed.

#### **UNDULANT FEVER**

Three cases of this disease in two adults and one child were investigated during April. It would appear that no particular milk supply was involved, but the presence of an unusual number of cases of the disease, in past years, in the same locality, made necessary the recommendation that all milk be pasteurized or only raw milk from tested herds be used.



**HIGHWAY EATING PLACES INSPECTED**

During April inspections were made of highway eating places and service stations along the following highways: No. 101 highway from northern city limits of Sausalito to junction of No. 20 highway, two miles north of Ukiah, exclusive of Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Healdsburg and Ukiah; No. 37 highway from No. 101 to Shellville, then Nos. 37-12 to Napa city limits; Highway No. 29 from Napa city limits through Yountville, Oakdale, Rutherford, St. Helena and Calistoga; Highway No. 29 from Calistoga to Middletown; Highway No. 53 Middletown to Lower Lake; Highway No. 29 from Lower Lake through Kelseyville, Finley, Lakeport to Upper Lake; Highway No. 20, Upper Lake to No. 101; Petaluma-Valley Ford to No. 101 north of Sausalito, including Valley Ford, Tomales, Marshall, Stinson Beach and Muir Beach; No. 99 highway from Los Angeles, Kern County line to southern city limits of Bakersfield; No. 101 alternate highway from Ventura-Los Angeles County line to intersection of No. 101, exclusive of Oxnard.

Following is a summary of places inspected and conditions encountered:

Eating places inspected .....	185
Conditions satisfactory .....	92
Number with minor defects .....	64
Number with insanitary conditions .....	29
Service stations inspected .....	150
Conditions satisfactory .....	83
Number with minor defects .....	49
Number with insanitary conditions .....	18

**MILD SMALLPOX CASES APPEAR**

An investigation was made recently into the appearance of small pox in a northern California community. About 10 definite cases of mild discrete smallpox were seen, and it would appear that about 25 cases have occurred in the community. A vaccination program was started in the schools and it is believed that the situation is under control.

**SCHOOL CHALKS AND CRAYONS**

A recent report on the use of chalks and crayons containing lead has aroused interest upon the part of school officials and manufacturers of school supplies as well. Samples of such materials used in many California school districts have been submitted to the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory for analysis. Samples are being analyzed for lead, mercury and arsenic. Upon completion, a list of colored chalks and crayons found to contain no toxic ingredients will be prepared for the guidance of school purchasing agents who will be able to order materials that are not dangerous to health.

**TUBERCULOSIS AMONG INDIANS**

Following is a summary of results of X-ray examinations of Indians in certain counties of California, such examinations having been made through the use of the California State Department of Public Health's motor clinic. In Riverside County, 461 X-ray examinations were made. Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered, one of which was moderately advanced. In San Diego County, 677 X-rays were made, with the discovery of six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, two of which were far advanced. In San Bernardino County, 36 X-ray examinations were made and one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered. In Santa Barbara, 30 such X-ray examinations were made with no cases being discovered. Out of a total of 1204 X-ray examinations of Indians, 13 cases were discovered or approximately 1 per cent of the total. These reports include examination of a small number of members of the white race. As a result of a tuberculosis survey conducted in Imperial County by the State Bureau of Tuberculosis, 1214 individuals were given X-ray examinations. Thirty cases of active pulmonary reinfection type tuberculosis and 10 cases of active childhood tuberculosis and tracheobronchial tuberculosis were discovered.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS**

The following tabulation provides data pertaining to the number of special investigations conducted by the bureau during April and the abatements that resulted:

Special Investigations	
Seaports (conditions along water fronts) .....	3
Rabies .....	11
Rodent .....	47
Stream pollution .....	7
Sewage disposal .....	15
Garbage disposal .....	18
Water supplies .....	9
Ocean beaches .....	10
Public schools .....	3
Inspections .....	196
Reinspections .....	78
Nuisances abated .....	69

**Total Abatements for April**

Sewage disposal methods improved .....	73
Plumbing improvements .....	98
Water supplies improved .....	5
Improvements in methods of garbage disposal .....	15
Improvements in food supply and other places .....	259

**INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEYS**

Industrial hygiene surveys were made during April in 43 establishments employing more than 7000 workers. These covered the following industries: motion pictures, chemicals, clay, glass and stone, food and beverages, lumber and furniture, nonferrous metals, porcelain enameling and textiles.



**MORBIDITY****Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 18, 1940****Chickenpox**

723 cases: Alameda County 7, Alameda 27, Emeryville 1, Oakland 25, Berkeley 6, San Leandro 3, Butte County 9, Contra Costa County 8, Concord 2, Pittsburg 1, Placerville 1, Fresno County 12, Coalinga 1, Fresno 20, Reedley 1, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 11, Kings County 3, Hanford 4, Susanville 3, Los Angeles County 66, Alhambra 10, Burbank 2, Compton 1, Culver City 7, El Monte 3, Glendale 16, Huntington Park 7, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 23, Los Angeles 102, Pasadena 4, San Gabriel 5, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 9, South Pasadena 14, South Gate 2, Bell 2, Madera County 5, Marin County 2, Ross 14, San Anselmo 22, Merced County 1, Monterey County 5, Salinas 3, Calistoga 1, Orange County 21, Orange 1, Santa Ana 9, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 1, Blythe 1, Riverside 6, Sacramento 6, North Sacramento 9, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 10, Chula Vista 2, Escondido 4, National City 3, San Diego 14, San Francisco 48, San Joaquin County 5, Manteca 4, Stockton 10, Tracy 1, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 8, Burlingame 4, Daly City 7, Menlo Park 1, Santa Clara County 3, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 3, Sunnyvale 4, Santa Cruz 3, Vallejo 6, Sonoma County 7, Petaluma 1, Tulare County 14, Dinuba 11, Visalia 6, Winters 1, Yuba County 4.

**Diphtheria**

13 cases: Oakland 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Palos Verdes Estate City 2, Madera County 1, Hollister 1, Colton 1, Stockton 2, Sonoma County 2.

**German Measles**

28 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Martinez 1, Fresno County 1, Humboldt County 1, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 1, South Gate 1, Santa Ana 3, San Diego County 3, San Diego 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 2, Yolo County 1.

**Influenza**

49 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Los Angeles 6, Lynwood 1, Mendocino County 2, Santa Ana 1, San Bernardino County 1, Coronado 4, Sonoma County 27.

**Malaria**

2 cases: Winters 1, Yuba County 1.

**Measles**

434 cases: Oakland 8, Butte County 1, Antioch 6, Fresno County 9, Fresno 18, Humboldt County 1, Calixico 1, Kern County 101, Bakersfield 16, Delano 7, Tehachapi 1, Kings County 12, Hanford 13, Susanville 1, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 22, San Fernando 3, Santa Monica 1, Madera County 1, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 1, Merced County 1, Orange County 7, Brea 1, Newport Beach 2, Placer County 6, Lincoln 5, Corona 1, Sacramento 11, San Diego County 22, Chula Vista 6, Escondido 5, La Mesa 1, San Diego 39, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 15, Lodi 2, Stockton 7, San Luis Obispo 15, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Watsonville 1, Siskiyou County 5, Solano County 1, Vallejo 2, Santa Rosa 2, Tulare County 3, Exeter 2, Oxnard 2, Winters 26.

**Mumps**

539 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 15, Berkeley 3, Oakland 13, Piedmont 2, Butte County 1, Fresno County 19, Clovis 4, Reedley 1, Sanger 1, Kern County 17, Bakersfield 9, Delano 1, Kings County 20, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 54, Burbank 8, Compton 1, Glendale 31, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 48, Los Angeles 30, Pasadena 3, San Fernando 2, Torrance 9, Signal Hill 6, Madera County 1, San Anselmo 1, Orange County 17, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 6, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 7, Santa Ana 7, Laguna Beach 1, Banning 2, Corona 1, Indio 4, Riverside 6, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 4, San Francisco 44, San Joaquin County 11, Manteca 15, Stockton 10, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 4, Paso Robles 6, San Mateo County 9, Burlingame 2, Hillsborough 1, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 5, South San Francisco 1, Menlo Park 5, Santa Barbara County 6, Santa Maria 6, Santa Clara County 4, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 2, Sutter County 1, Dinuba 1, Ventura County 1, Ventura 2, Yuba County 6, Marysville 21, Monterey County 2.

**Pneumonia (Lobar)**

40 cases: Oakland 2, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 4, Azusa 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 15, Lynwood 1, Pacific Grove 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 1, La Mesa 1, National City 1, San Francisco 3, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 2, Sonoma County 2, Sutter County 1.

**Scarlet Fever**

144 cases: Oakland 2, San Leandro 1, Butte County 2, Gridley 1, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 6, Humboldt County 2, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Tehachapi 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 13, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 24, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Madera County 1, San Anselmo 3, Fullerton 2, Santa Ana 1, Lincoln 1, Roseville 1, Riverside County 9, Corona 7, Riverside 9, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, Escondido 2, La Mesa 1, San Diego 2,

San Francisco 8, Stockton 2, Santa Clara County 1, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 4, Exeter 1, Sonoma 3, Oxnard 1, Yolo County 2, Winters 1.

**Smallpox**

14 cases: Butte County 11, Chico 2, Sutter County 1.

**Typhoid Fever**

8 cases: El Centro 1, Lakeport 2, Los Angeles County 1, Inglewood 1, Colfax 1, Stockton 2.

**Whooping Cough**

512 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 2, Emeryville 2, Hayward 1, Oakland 10, Piedmont 1, Contra Costa County 3, Fresno County 22, Fresno 6, Sanger 1, Kern County 21, Bakersfield 1, Delano 2, Hanford 4, Los Angeles County 53, Alhambra 3, Burbank 5, Culver City 11, El Monte 1, Glendale 5, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 56, Pasadena 14, San Gabriel 2, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 3, Whittier 3, Torrance 7, South Gate 3, Monterey Park 2, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Marin County 1, Monterey County 12, Monterey 1, Salinas 2, Soledad 2, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 2, Riverside County 6, Corona 10, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 15, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 7, Chula Vista 1, Escondido 7, San Diego 6, San Francisco 21, San Joaquin County 20, Manteca 1, Stockton 6, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo County 4, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 4, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 2, South San Francisco 2, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 12, Santa Clara County 25, Mountain View 3, Palo Alto 11, San Jose 9, Sunnyvale 4, Santa Cruz County 4, Santa Cruz 4, Watsonville 4, Sonoma County 5, Santa Rosa 11, Lindsay 16, Porterville 1, Sonoma 2, Ojai 1, Yolo County 2, Yuba County 1.

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

3 cases: Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Monrovia 1.

**Dysentery (Bacillary)**

5 cases: Calixico 1, Los Angeles County 1, Culver City 1, Los Angeles 1, Yolo County 1.

**Dysentery (Amoebic)**

2 cases: Kern County.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

2 cases: Fresno County 1, Pasadena 1.

**Pellagra**

3 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 1, Santa Monica 1.

**Poliomyelitis**

4 cases: Los Angeles 2, South Pasadena 1, South San Francisco 1.

**Tetanus**

1 case: Los Angeles.

**Trachoma**

7 cases: Fresno County 2, Fresno 1, Tehachapi 2, Tulare County 1, Dinuba 1.

**Encephalitis (Epidemic)**

2 cases: Madera County 1, San Joaquin County 1.

**Trichinosis**

1 case: Ventura County.

**Jaundice (Epidemic)**

3 cases: Susanville 2, Manteca 1.

**Food Poisoning**

1 case: Bakersfield.

**Undulant Fever**

8 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Monterey County 1, San Francisco 3, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1.

**Coccidioidal Granuloma**

1 case: Indio.

**Septic Sore Throat**

4 cases: Mendocino County 1, Calistoga 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1.

**Epilepsy**

37 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 4, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 9, Redondo 1, Monterey County 1, Corona 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Mateo County 8, Santa Clara County 2, Sonoma County 6.

**Rabies (Animal)**

8 cases: Contra Costa County 1, Kings County 1, Manhattan 1, Madera County 1, San Francisco 1, San Mateo County 1, Atherton 1, Visalia 1.

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